Electrification of villages of Begusarai District in Bihar

*133. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the villages in Begusarai district of Bihar have been electrified;

(b) if not, how many villages are yet to be electrified in the district; and

(c) by when such villages are likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K ALAGH): (a) Out of 1190 villages in Begusarai District, 835 villages are reported to be electrified.

(b) 355 villages are yet to be electrified in the District.

(c) The financial and physical target of rural electrification in the States are fixed by Planning Commission on annual basis, subject to availability of financial resources, infrastructural facilities and past performance of the Board. The District wise priority are fixed by the State Government. The electrification of remaining villages in Begusarai District would, therefore, depend upon the availablity of financial resources, power supply position in the State, other inputs and priority accorded by the State Government.

Outcome of G-15 Summit held at Kuala Lumpur

*134. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India actively participated at the seventh G-15 Summit held at Kuala Lumpur recently, if so, who led the Indian delegation;

(b) what were the details of discussions held there and whether any consensus was reached on issues faced by member countries relating to currently volatility, market access, instruments like anti-dumping and access to high technology etc.; and

(c) whether India felt satisfied with the outcome of Summit on furthering Souih-South Cooperation and the 56 billion dollar intra-regional trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): Yes Sir, the Indian delegation was led by the Hon'ble Vice-President of India.

(b) and (c) The Seventh G-15 Summit at Kuala Lumpur from November 3-6, 1997 examined the impact of globalisation on the future direction of the world economy and recognised that the growth prospects of all countries, particularly developing countries, will depend largely on their ability to participate positively in this emerging global economic system. It emphasised that spurring economic growth in developing countries was, therefore, in the interest of the global economy as a whole. The Summit renewed the commitment to a globalisation process which leads to a more equitable and sustainable pattern of development and rapid economic growth. It urged that the continued positive participation of developing countries, including the least developed, in the global economy be reciprocated by a supportive, fair and non-discriminatory international economic environment.

The Seventh G-15 Summit was for the first time preceded by a meeting of the G-15 Trade and Economic Ministers. Accordingly, the Summit foeussed on a number of WTO-relatcd issues like giving priority to implementation of existing commitments under the Uruguay Round Agreements, seeking better market access for developing countries, ruling out the overloading of the WTO agenda through a new Round of trade negotiations, ensuring that anti-dumping provisions arc not used as an instrument of protection and trade harassment by developed